

THEATER OF THE SENSES

This project proposes a theater of the senses, with special consideration for autistic children (5-12y). It integrates adaptive design strategies and multi-sensory engagement to invite visitors to engage kinetically with Noguchi's work, as well as support emotional regulation and community-building.

DESIGN INSPIRATION: MARTHA GRAHAM & NOGUCHI

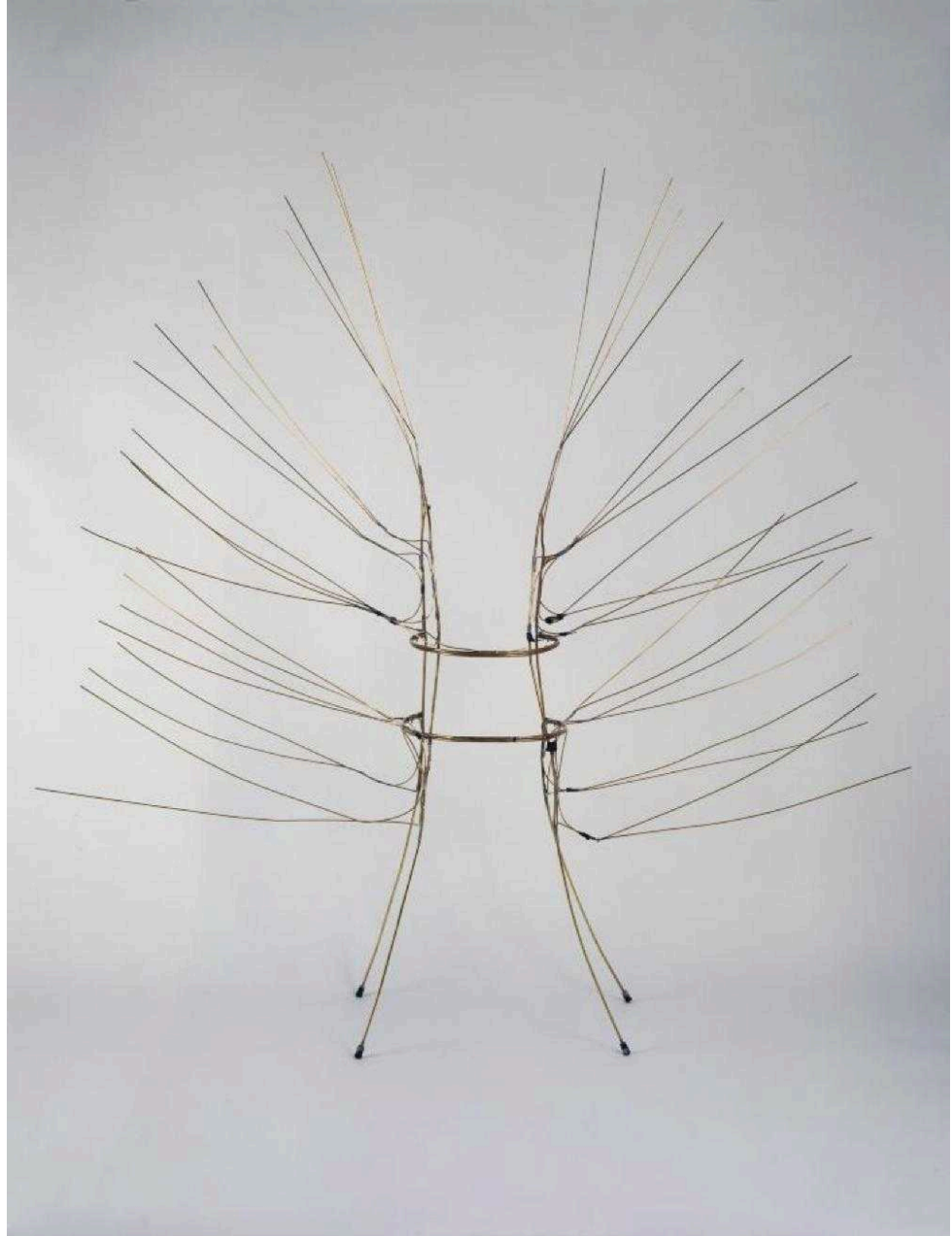
ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE ISAMU NOGUCHI FOUNDATION ARCHIVES



MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE THEATRE (1976)



CAVE OF THE HEART: ISLANDS (1946)

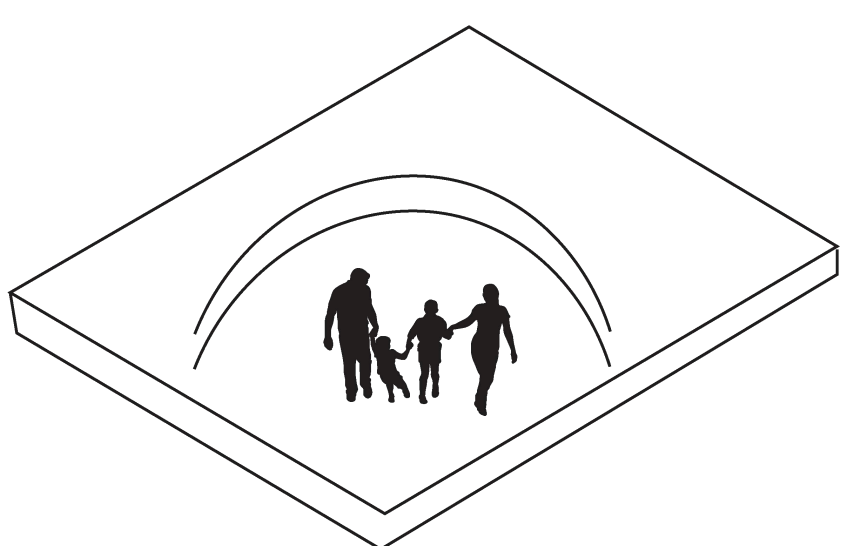


CAVE OF THE HEART: SPIDER DRESS (1946)

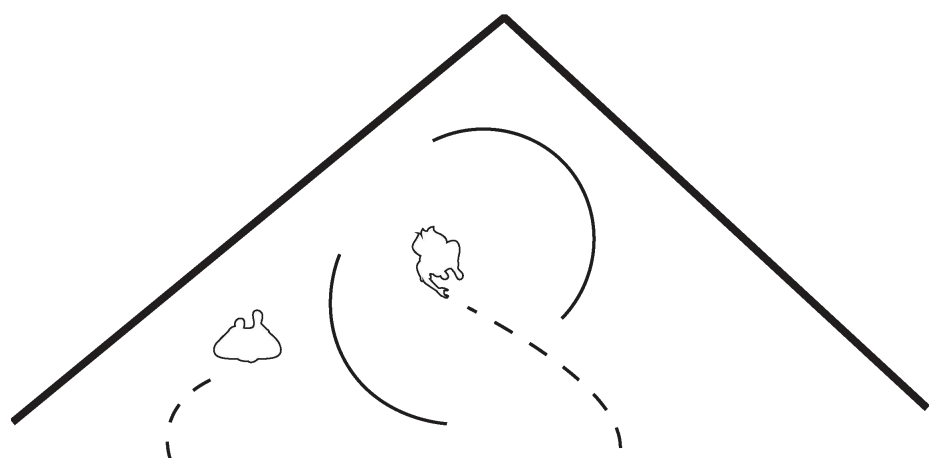


CAVE OF THE HEART: AORTA (1946)

VS. (DESIGN TAXONOMY)

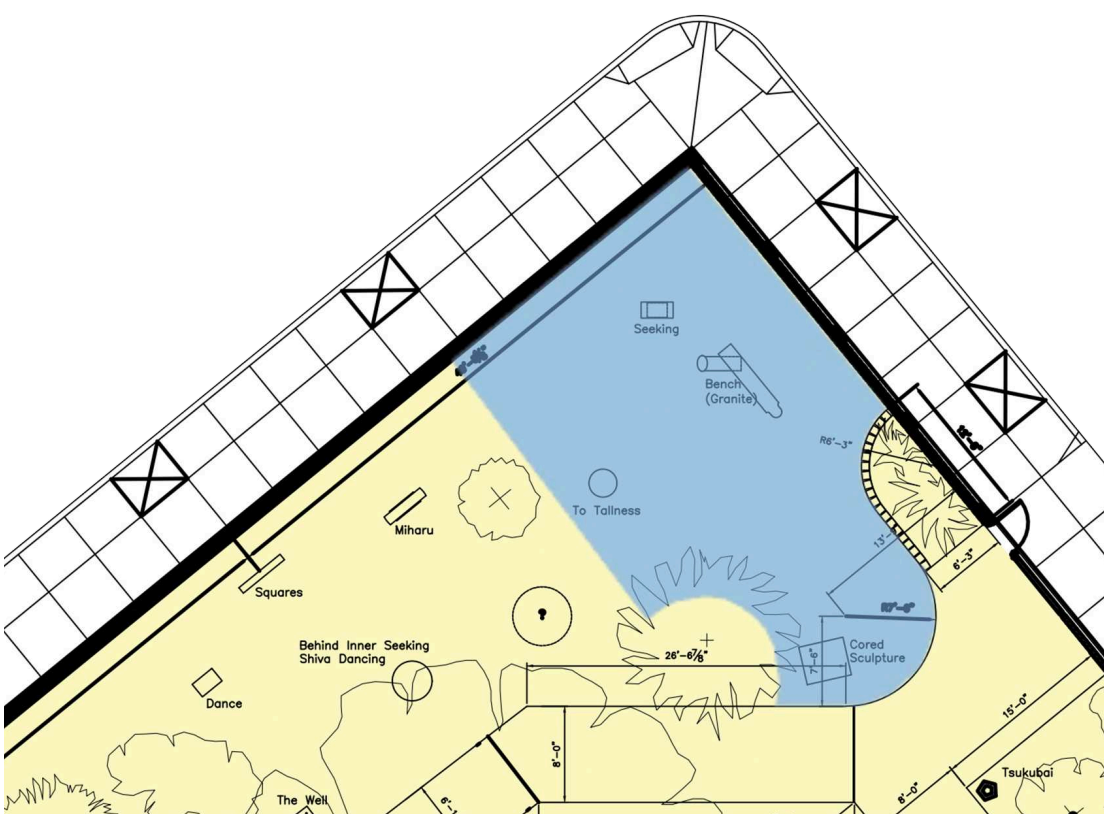


QUIET VS. VIBRANT
The musical element of the Laser Harp brings vibrancy to an otherwise quiet setting



MOVEMENT VS. PAUSE
The interactive structures guide human movement and create opportunities for both engagement and pause

SITE: SE CORNER OF THE GARDEN



SITE ANALYSIS
It's a corner tucked away from the main pathway and bordered on 2 sides (outer walls, trees and bamboo). This offers a sense of privacy and highlights the natural beauty of the garden.

DESIGN RESEARCH & PRECEDENT

ELEMENTS OF PLAYGROUND DESIGN FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

- Create an intuitive layout:
- Use smooth safety surfacing
- Provide social interaction opportunities
- Engage the senses
- Highlight the environment
- Provide shade

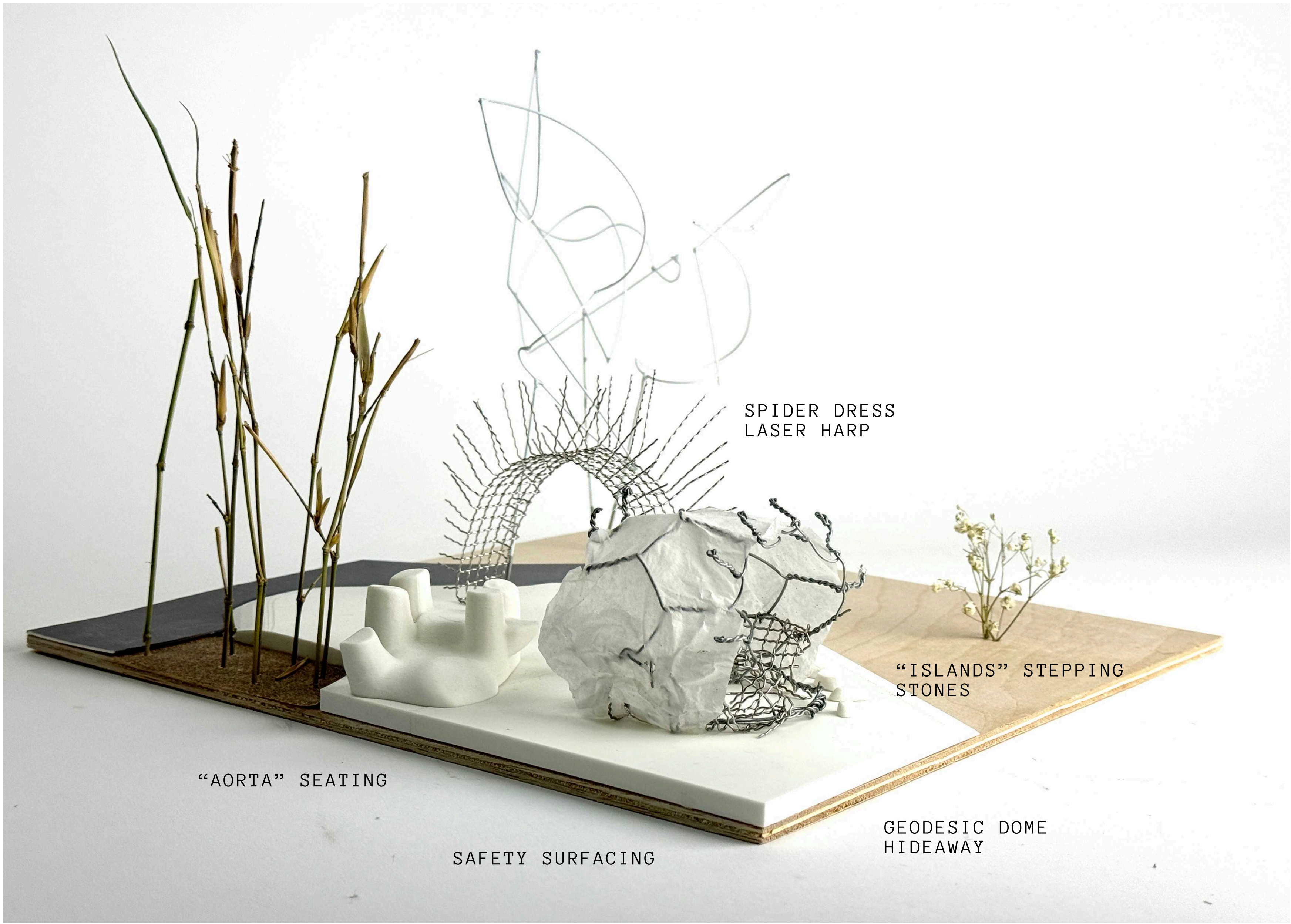
According to the CDC:

1 in 4 Americans are living with a disability. 90% are invisible.

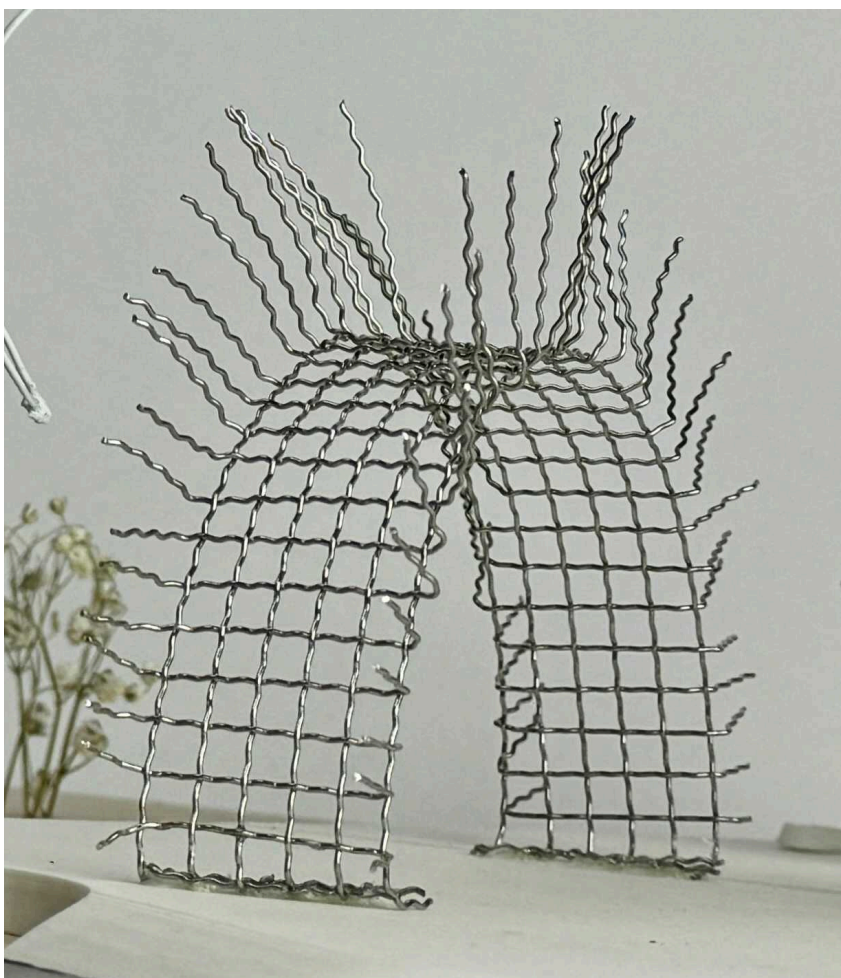
Including autism, cognitive and developmental issues, sensory challenges and other differences.

PROPOSAL: THEATER OF THE SENSES

- Who: All Visitors, Especially Autistic Children (5-12y)
- What: A sensory theater for rest, regulation and socialization inspired by Isamu Noguchi and Martha Graham's collaboration.
- Where: Southeast corner of the garden
- When: Spring and Summer
- Why: Creating an integrated built environment which invites kinetic engagement with the art and also considers the needs of autistic children and their families.



- A reinterpretation of Jen Lewin's laser harp into Noguchi's aesthetic. References "Cave of the Heart: Spider Dress" (1946).
- A low sensory hideaway hut, inspired by the Martha Graham Dance Theater (1976)
- A communal seating & play structure modeled after the "Cave of the Heart: Aorta" performance structure (1946)
- Stepping stones modeled after the "Cave of the Heart: Islands" performance structure (1946)
- Safety Surfacing



I like to think of playgrounds as a primer of shapes and functions; simple, mysterious, and evocative: thus educational. The child's world would be a beginning world, fresh and clear."

Isamu Noguchi